

July 28, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

3011 '99 AUG -4 A9:48

Dear Sir or Madam:

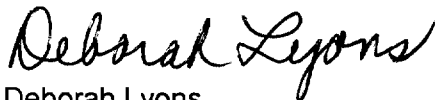
I am writing regarding Docket No. 99D-0557, regarding the use of non-human animals in organ transplants and xenografts into human beings. My understanding is the FDA currently will not approve any primate xenografts at this time, though the agency is encouraging further study on the issue. However, the FDA is not ruling out other species, such as pigs, in xenotransplants.

I am very opposed to xenografts and xenotransplants. The threats of inter-species viral transmission is too great. All inter-species grafts and transplants should be banned, including pigs as source animals. Pig viruses are just as dangerous as non-human primate viruses. Furthermore, there has never been a successful case of an animal organ being transplanted into a human being. Every single recipient has died after receiving an animal organ. Finally, the concept itself of sacrificing animals for use of their organs is wrong. It is presumptuous and arrogant to treat animals as if their sole reason for being is to satisfy our needs. Animals have intrinsic value and worth, apart from their relationship to the human race.

The United States should follow Europe's lead. In January 1999, the Council of Europe recommended a world-wide ban on xenotransplants. There are safer and more humane alternatives to xenotransplantation, such as aggressively promoting preventative medicine and increasing human organ donations.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,

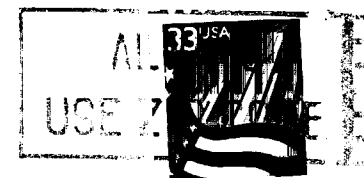


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99D-0557

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